AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

9. (new) CHO cell transfected with an expression vector comprising a promoter that is active in CHO cells and that is driving expression of a recombinant product protein and further comprising a portion from the murine IgG 2 A gene locus DNA which portion is enhancing activity of said promoter.

10. (new) CHO cell according to claim 9, characterized in that the vector further comprises a transcription unit encoding a selectable marker, preferably a glutamin synthetase (GS) marker.

11. (new) CHO cell according to claim 9 or 10, characterized in the CHO cell is stably transfected.

12. (new) Method of expressing a recombinant protein, comprising the steps of culturing a CHO cell transfected with an expression vector comprising a promoter active in CHO cells driving expression of a recombinant product protein and further comprising the murine IgG 2 A gene locus DNA or a DNA sequence variant or DNA fragment thereof which is enhancing activity of said promoter, and harvesting the product protein

13. (new) Method according to claim 12, characterised in that the promoter is a strong viral promoter, preferably the hCMV promoter.

14. (new) Method according to one of claims 12 or 13, characterised in that the IgG 2A gene locus portion does lack the natural immunoglobulin promoter.

15. (new) Method according to claim 12, characterized in that the promoter is hCMV promoter or a functional part thereof having promoter activity wherein said promoter or functional part lack the 'modulator' sequence in the upstream/enhancer portion as found stretching from position -750 to -1150 relative to the MIE transcription start site.

16. (new) CHO cell transfected with a mammalian expression vector comprising at least a first transcription unit for a product gene which transcription unit is under the control of the mCMV promoter, and further comprising a second transcription unit comprising a glutamine synthetase (GS) marker gene.

17. (new) Mammalian expression vector comprising at least a first transcription unit for a product gene which transcription unit is under control of the mCMV promoter or a functional fragment thereof, and further comprising a second transcription unit comprising a glutamine synthetase (GS) marker gene.

18. (new) Vector according to claim 16, wherein the mCMV promoter or functional fragment comprises the natural transcription start site (+0) and extends upstream to position -500.

19. (new) Vector according to claim 18, wherein the mCMV promoter or functional fragment extends to the natural Xho I restriction site.

20. (new) Vector according to claim 18, wherein the transcription start site is engineered to comprise a suitable restriction site for insertion of a recombinant gene product.

21. (new) Vector according to claim 17 or 18, wherein the first transcription unit harbors at least one intron sequence.

22. (new) Vector according to claim 21, wherein said intron is not the first, natural intron of the mCMV promoter.

23. (new) Method of using 17 for enhancing the transfection rate in CHO cells.